

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Middlesex and Essex Senatorial District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2004.

Residents of Middlesex and Essex Senatorial District

Characteristics of Admissions

In FY 2004, there were 102,226 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts; 1.5% (1,765) of these admissions reside in the Middlesex and Essex Senatorial District. 4% (62) of admissions from the Middlesex and Essex Senatorial District were under 17 years of age. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.** In FY 2004, admissions to all residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment services from Middlesex and Essex Senatorial District reported the following characteristics:

- 65% were male and 35% were female.
- 63% were between the ages of 21-39.
- 88% were white non-Latino, 4% were black non-Latino, 5% were Latino, and 3% were other racial categories.
- 75% were never married, 12% were married, and 13% reported not to be married now.
- 22% had less than high school education, 55% completed high school, and 23% had more than high school education.
- 27% were employed.
- 9% were homeless.
- 31% had prior mental health treatment.

Primary Substance of Use

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use that is the substance for which the client is seeking treatment. Table 1 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Middlesex and Essex Senatorial District.

Table 1					
Primary Drug by District and State FY 2004					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	31%	45%	5%	3%	1%
State	43%	39%	5%	4%	4%

Substances Used in Past Year

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as ‘polydrug’ or ‘polysubstance’ use.

Table 2 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug users (IDU's), individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 2 Annual Admissions by Substance Used: FY 1996 – FY 2004							
Middlesex and Essex Senatorial District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '96	1,293	989	378	375	256	402	263
FY '97	1,359	1,092	412	341	197	382	267
FY '98	1,429	1,116	390	372	167	437	298
FY '99	1,495	1,090	442	395	184	523	376
FY '00	1,303	933	345	315	135	478	359
FY '01	1,380	923	344	301	107	583	402
FY '02	1,770	1,168	421	402	121	798	510
FY '03	1,724	1,032	468	436	137	786	551
FY '04	1,765	1,009	477	457	148	878	670

Heroin and Injection Drug Use

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the Middlesex and Essex Senatorial District and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV.

